

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RUNDELAND:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. COLLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----020314Z 030054 /62

R 012309Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 126685

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 1

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 1, 1977:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON AN ISRAELI RAID INTO LEBANON?

A. I HAVE SEEN THE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS ON IT, YES. I DON-
'T HAVE ANYTHING.

Q. YOU HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORTS FROM MOSCOW THAT
THIS SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVIST SHCHARANSKY WILL FACE TREASON
CHARGES?

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A. I BECAME AWARE OF THAT SHORTLY BEFORE I CAME IN HERE,
AND WE HAVE NOT REALLY HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AT IT. WE
HAVE NOT HEARD FROM OUR EMBASSY ABOUT IT YET, BUT WE WILL
BE STUDYING IT VERY CLOSELY.

Q. IS IT LOGICAL FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE THE POSI-
TION THAT FUNDS FOR THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE CAN-
NOT BE TRANSFERRED IN INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS, BUT IT
PERMITS PLO OFFICES TO OPERATE IN NEW YORK? WHAT IS THE
DIFFERENCE?

A. FIRST OF ALL, THIS IS NOT A UNITED STATES POSITION,
THIS IS A U.N. POSITION.

Q. WELL, YES, BUT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTED THE SECURITY
COUNCIL. THEREFORE, IT IS A U.S. POSITION.

Q. WHERE IS THE LOGIC IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT IT

WILL FORBID THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS INTERNATIONALLY TO THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICES FOR THEM TO CONVEY THEIR POINTS OF VIEW, WHEREAS THE UNITED STATES IS SILENT -- AS A MATTER OF FACT, CONDONES THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO NEW YORK TO KEEP THE PLO OFFICES IN OPERATION?

A. FIRST OF ALL, THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A U.N. RESOLUTION AND A U.S. POSITION. OUR POSITION ON THE PLO OFFICE, WE HAVE SAID OR STATED A NUMBER OF TIMES. AS LONG AS THEY ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL EXISTING REGULATIONS THERE IS NO LEGAL WAY THAT WE CAN TAKE ANY ACTION ON THE PLO OFFICE. I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO IT BEYOND THAT.

Q. WELL, LET ME GO A LITTLE FURTHER THEN. HAS THE RHODESIAN OFFICE IN ANY WAY FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE UNITED STATES REGULATIONS? CAN YOU SHOW US ANY EVIDENCE THAT IT HAS OR HAS NOT?

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A. JOE, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT HAS OR HAS NOT, BUT I THINK WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS A U.N. RESOLUTION.

Q. NO. IT'S A U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WHICH IS DISTINCT FROM A U.N.G.A. RESOLUTION. OF COURSE, WE KNOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS NOT BIASED AGAINST ISRAEL OR SO ON OR THE PLO FOR THAT MATTER. THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE. I AM ASKING ABOUT THE LOGIC OF TAKING THESE STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION. ONE, FOR RHODESIA IT IS OKAY TO BLOCK RHODESIA -- NOT THAT I AM IN FAVOR OF RHODESIA BY ANY MEANS. BUT IT'S A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE. BUT THE PLO IS PERMITTED TO SPEW ITS PROPAGANDA OUT OF NEW YORK. WHY IS THAT? WHAT IS THE LOGIC? ISN'T THE STATE DEPARTMENT REALLY OPERATING ON TWO ROLES, HAS A DOUBLE STANDARD OR A TRIPLE STANDARD?

A. NO. I DON'T AGREE WITH THAT. BUT I AM NOT GOING TO REPEAT WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID, WHICH IS ALL I COULD DO IN ANY CASE.

Q. WELL, CAN WE FIND OUT AS A MATTER OF LOGIC HOW CAN THE STATE DEPARTMENT JUSTIFY A BARRIER AGAINST RHODESIA AND NOT PUT UP A BARRIER AGAINST THE PLO?

A. I WOULD POINT OUT AGAIN THAT THE ACTION ON THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE IS A U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IN WHICH WE HAD A PART. THE POSITION ON THE PLO, WHOSE ACTIVITIES YOU REFER TO, IS, AS FAR AS I KNOW, A MATTER FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AS FAR AS ITS OWN REGULATIONS ARE CONCERNED.

Q. YOU ARE GOING TO CHECK INTO THE LOGIC OF THE PLO BEING ABLE TO HIRE PEOPLE, GET MONEY IN HERE, MOVE PROPAGANDA AROUND, BUT RHODESIA CAN'T AND WHAT IS THE LOGIC IN THAT? HOW CAN THE STATE DEPARTMENT JUSTIFY THAT?
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A. I THINK I HAVE VOWED TO GIVE YOU AN ANSWER.

Q. THE ILO IS MEETING TODAY, AND THE QUESTION IS: WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ABOUT THE MEMBER STATES POLITICIZING IT -- AND THE UNITED STATES WITHDREW FROM IT BECAUSE OF THOSE ACTIONS BY THE U.N. MEMBERS. WHERE DO WE STAND NOW, TODAY?

A. I WILL HAVE TO GET YOU AN ANSWER. DO YOU WANT ME TO UPDATE OUR POSITION ON THE ILO?

Q. WELL, YES, WHAT WAS SAID TODAY AT THE ILO MEETING, IF YOU CAN GET IT. AND WHILE YOU ARE GETTING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS, WILL YOU ALSO FIND OUT WHAT THE OFFICIAL U.S. POSITION IS WITH REGARD TO THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON COMPENSATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST? WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN? WHAT IS COMPENSATION? WHO IS TO GET IT? WHO IS TO PAY -- AND SO ON.

A. I THINK WE ANSWERED THOSE QUESTIONS ON FRIDAY OF LAST WEEK. I AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND IT OR TAKE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT IT. OUR POSITION IS THE SAME AS IT WAS THEN, AND THERE IS NO POINT IN MY TRYING TO GO INTO IT WITH YOU AGAIN HERE.

Q. I DON'T THINK THE QUESTION OF THE DEFINITION OF COMPENSATION, OR THE PARAMETERS OF IT, WERE EVER GIVEN. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I EVEN SAW ANYTHING ON IT, OR HEARD ABOUT IT ANYWHERE.

A. I THINK WE SAID THAT OUR POSITION IS NOT CHANGED, AND I AM JUST NOT ENOUGH PREPARED TO GO INTO IT AGAIN WITH YOU HERE.

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